

# Teaming With Our Community



## A Message from our Leadership



What can be said about 2020 that hasn't already – it was a year of extreme turmoil, from the life-changing COVID-19 pandemic to civil unrest and a nation calling for change, we all experienced tremendous upheaval and uncertainty in our lives.

In 2019, we looked ahead to the future after Lancaster Rec celebrated our 110 year anniversary of serving our Lancaster community. But our vision quickly turned to day-to-day operations in March, as Lancaster Rec closed our doors for three months to keep our community safe, we worked quickly to retool and reorganize our programs.

When we returned, we focused on providing the key services and programs that Lancaster residents have relied on, such as childcare for working families, companionship and connection for senior citizens and recreation programs for children and adults.

We faced the challenges to modify these programs and continue to provide essential services for our community in need. You can learn more about our efforts on page 4. We struggled but we preserved. Ultimately, we tried to make the most of 2020 for the children, families and community members we serve.

We had setbacks and trials - but we look hopeful to the future. We know Lancaster Rec has endured hard times before - seeing our community through the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic, both World Wars, the Great Depression, the Great Recession - and now the Pandemic of 2019. But Lancaster Rec has sustained, staying strong to fulfill our mission and to be there for you. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us.

## President-Elect Biden Visits Lancaster Rec

On a late afternoon in June, we received a phone call from a representative of former Vice President Joe Biden's political campaign, asking to stop by our Rec Center. When we agreed to the visit on the phone, the caller, identified as campaign employee Sam Salk, said he was already waiting outside.

He took a brief tour of the Lancaster Recreation Center and asked if within 72 hours, Joe Biden could arrive at the space to meet with Pennsylvania families that had benefited from the Affordable Care Act. Upon agreement, the campaign rented the facility and set to work preparing for the former Vice President's visit.

What happened next was a flurry of activity. A local sound engineering and equipment company from York arrived to spend the better part of two days transforming our gymnasium into a presidential podium for a live press conference. Secret Service members arrived from Harrisburg and Washington DC to sweep our building and the surrounding area and run background checks on all onsite employees.

The day of the event, dozens of campaign employees and Secret Service swarmed the Lancaster Recreation Center in anticipation of the former Vice Presidents arrival, as protestors and counter protestors gathered outside our building. Around 3 p.m., Joe Biden arrived in his motorcade and entered from Brandon Park to meet with families in the small courtyard on the side of our building. After meeting with families for nearly an hour, he moved to the decorated gymnasium to conduct a press briefing. Just before he left from his visit, he took about 5 minutes to stand outside of our Rec Center near Brandon Park to wave to supporters outside and introduce himself to some Lancaster Rec staff.

In November 2020, former Vice President Joe Biden was elected as the 46th president of the United States. At Lancaster Rec, we will always remember his notable visit to our Recreation Center and mark it as a significant moment as part of our agency's history.

### Lancaster Recreation Commission Board Officers

John Carpenter, Chair - City Resident  
Jaime Arroyo, Vice Chair - City Councilman  
Matt Przywara, Secretary/Treasurer -  
School District Chief Financial & Operations Officer

### Board Members

Stephen Campbell - Director of Public Works  
Faith Craig - City Councilwoman  
Bob Desmarais, Jr. - Township Resident  
Iber Guerrero Lopez - Township Supervisor  
Ramon Escudero - School Board Member  
Sean Post - City Resident  
Kareena Rios - School Board Member  
Mark Sandblade - City Resident

# Making the Most of 2020



## Providing Programs during the Pandemic

Despite the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Lancaster Rec continued to provide programming to our community through recreation, childcare, senior services and special events. Lancaster Rec modified programs, created COVID protocols and guidelines and followed recommendations from the Center for Disease Control to provide additional health and safety measures in our programs and services.

### Childcare:

Childcare programs returned in August providing Early Childhood Education programs and School Age Care programs in school in the School District of Lancaster.



Our Early Childhood Education programs took place at our Child Development Center at McCaskey High School and at our Lancaster Recreation Center, for children 6 weeks of age to 5.

School Age Care programs returned to 8 of the 12 elementary schools. School District of Lancaster students began the year with all virtual learning and attended our programs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

New COVID protocols such as health checks at arrival, only allowing children and staff into buildings, increased handwashing for children and staff and keeping children in cohorts and smaller groups helped decrease potential spread of infection in our childcare programs.

### Senior Programs:

From January to March, our senior center was bustling with new programs like an Introduction to Technology class and new Mahjong lessons. But in mid-March, the senior center program closed and stayed shut through September. The program reopened September 21, but had to again close in November to keep seniors safe.

During the time the senior center was closed, staff made sure to deliver meals to seniors in need. In 2020, our staff delivered a total of 1,880 meal boxes.

Senior center staff also made weekly calls to senior center members, to check in on their health and wellness and provide suggestions for activities for seniors. In total, our staff made 1,496 calls during the time the senior center was closed.

### Youth and Adult Sports and Recreation:

Despite re-earning our Better Sports for Kids Quality Sport provider from the National Youth Sport Alliance (NAYS) we had to cancel many of our spring sport programs in 2020.

New programs were started to offer programs to our community and modified programs took place to do our best to provide programs to our residents. In partnership with community organizations and community partners, we introduced Yoga in the Park and Boxing in the Park, as socially distanced and safe programs for adults and families in local parks.

### Conestoga Pines Pool:

Despite the pandemic, we knew we wanted to find a way to keep residents cool over the summer.

We opened Conestoga Pines Pool with new COVID protocols in place, including requiring advanced online registration to collect information for contact tracing. We limited pool attendance and hours - but still managed to have a fun summer season at the pool. In the fall, Pooches in the Pool was held as a socially distanced event for people and dogs.



## Recreation Finds a Way



### Learning Keeps Going for SDoL Students

Childcare programs returned in August providing Early Childhood Education programs and School Age Care programs in school in the School District of Lancaster.

Our Early Childhood Education programs took place at our Child Development Center at McCaskey High School and at our Lancaster Recreation Center, for children 6 weeks of age to 5. Our staff increased cleaning of the sites, modified classroom materials and wore masks in our programs. Children over the age of 3 were required to wear masks during their time in the center. Children under the age of 2 did not wear masks, as advised by CDC guidelines.

School Age Care programs returned to 8 of the 12 elementary schools. School District of Lancaster students began the year with all virtual learning. Students were in Lancaster Rec programs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, logging online to complete synchronous and asynchronous learning sessions with teachers. Lancaster Rec staff provided support to students, as well as educational and recreational learning programs, supervised physical activity and daily meals. In October, students briefly transitioned to a hybrid program, attending school in person two days a week and spending three days with our Lancaster Rec program. However, within a few weeks, the School District of Lancaster transitioned back to fully remote instruction and children and families relied on our care full-time, once again.

### Finding a Way to Play

Youth sport and recreation programs looked very different in 2020.

Programs were modified to limit capacity and specific health and safety plans were developed with detailed protocols and regulations. Health screenings occurred when participants arrived and hand sanitizer was used throughout practice and games. Spectators were not permitted at practices and limited at games and coaches were required to wear face masks.

Over the summer, we were able to begin our youth Lancaster Baseball program and held a Girls Soccer Clinic, Jr. Tornado Cheerleading, Tennis, a Flag Football Clinic, Soccer and Jr. Tornado Football into the fall.

A modified adult softball league took place, holding games at School District of Lancaster, Lancaster Community Park and Lancaster County Ball Parks over the summer and fall.

New programs were also started to offer programs to our community. We introduced Yoga in the Park and Boxing in the Park, as socially distanced and safe programs for adults and families in local parks, with the help of community partners such as AIM to Empower Yoga.

Unfortunately our dance program could not return and perform in their end of the year recital in 2020. However, the program began a new in fall 2020 and dancers are preparing for a recital in June 2021.

### Keeping Our Community Cool During COVID

In a year full of challenges, obstacles and uncertainty, the Conestoga Pines Pool became a refuge for families looking to relax and put their worries aside for a few hours in a safe environment.

Once the possibility of opening the pool became a reality as the state outlined the phases of reopening, staff worked diligently to recruit lifeguards, coordinate lifeguard training through collaboration with our partners at the American Red Cross, prepare the pool and begin to develop and implement a plan to ensure patron safety. Management navigated new state mandated restrictions and regulations as they prepared the pool and the staff, but after several weeks of intense preparation, the lifeguards were trained, the pool was operational and new safety protocols for COVID-19 were implemented all in time for our targeted opening date.

As the days passed, it soon became very clear that the decision to open the pool was a great value to our community. Families signed up for 2 hour time slots online through a new registration software to allow for

## Recreation Finds a Way (cont.)



contactless payment and entry to the facility. Patrons regularly expressed how comfortable they felt given the measures and protocols in place such as the reduced occupancy limits, detailed signage, appropriate distancing, mask wearing as well as seeing staff members regularly clean and disinfect the facility. As one patron expressed to staff, "I am so happy you are open so that I could still have birthday party for my daughter!"

Staff felt a sense of pride in the way all of the challenges were met and the many positive experiences had with customers and fellow employees throughout the summer. As David Adams, assistant pool manager said, "The numerous compliments and words of gratitude from families were energizing for the staff. We all felt that we had helped give a semblance of normalcy to the community that was much needed in 2020."

## Operation Recreation - Community Partnerships Support Seniors

The sudden closure of the country due to the pandemic in mid-March caused an immediate concern for our seniors. Many seniors who depended on the senior center program for socialization and many of the activities offered by the senior center, as well as available nutritional meals, were suddenly spending their days alone. They were expected to be totally independent even if they were unable to go shopping, cook for themselves or have the necessary things available to occupy their time. It was clear that we needed to take action in a safe way to connect with our seniors.

The Lancaster County Office of Aging (LCOOA) stepped up right away to help. LCOOA helped coordinate calling seniors weekly at their homes and provided support for emerging needs of seniors. Center volunteers including the Chi Gong Instructor, Phyllis Krieder, the Geri-Fit Exercise Instructor, Judy Vesser, the Ukulele Instructor, Tom Tucker and the Art Instructor, Sam Mylin helped call seniors weekly. Approximately 120 phone calls per week were made from mid-March through late August. The social phone calls were much appreciated by the seniors and the staff, interns and volunteers had a chance to better get to know them as well as help them get through lonely times.

Volunteer instructors offered virtual activities for our seniors. Carol Woodard instructed interested seniors on how to play Mah Jong in real time online together. AIM to Empower Yoga Instructor, Jennifer Barnett, held a Zoom chair yoga class. Tai Chi Instructor, Kathy Ross held Zoom tai chi classes on Wednesday mornings and chair exercise classes on Monday and Thursday mornings. Many of our Geri-Fit participants were offered to take the strength exercise class for free on Geri-Fit.com. Also, Music for Everyone volunteer, Tom Tucker, got ukulele players together at an outdoor park wearing masks and sitting socially distanced during August and September for a ukulele music lesson.

In late August, Millersville School of Social Work interns started their fall semester to help with the Lancaster Rec Senior Center. Also All Well PA Department of Health and Wellness donated 200 bags filled with items to do exercises with a stretch band, walking with a pedometer, relieve stress with a stress ball and do puzzles in a puzzle book in our "Operation Recreation" kits. The bags included additional items like a magnet calendar and a letter from our senior center announcing the reopening of the Senior Center on September 21.

The Senior Center was closed again for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season. With support from LCOOA and F&M students we sent the seniors home with a holiday activity bag. LCOOA donated large print puzzle books, beautiful adult coloring books, packs of colored markers and a holiday craft. The F&M students created 150 personal cards with inspirational notes to distribute to our seniors to keep their holiday season bright and end the year on a positive note.



# Community Support Helps Make Lancaster Rec Shine



## Lancaster Rec Supported by Community for Improvements

Lancaster Rec received generous support from our business community this year. In 2020, Metro by T-Mobile helped Lancaster Rec upgrade our programs by providing funding for S.T.E.M. programming for our classrooms, an upgrade to our internal software system and a renovation for our gymnasium. Two Dudes, a local painting company, cleaned and painted our gymnasium over the winter holiday to help us provide a clean and refreshing space for health and wellness programs for our community.

In addition, Warfel Construction benefitted Lancaster Rec by helping to raise funding for building improvements, including adding a window to our preschool room, expanding our meeting room and resurfacing our building exterior brick for added safety for places where children play.



Finally, Music for Everyone brought in local artist, Selina Almanzar, to produce a community mural in Brandon Park next to our basketball courts. The mural was inspired by Bomba, an Afro-Caribbean tradition that highlights the intersection of Caribbean culture and traditions. We thank these community partners for brightening up our spaces and spirits.



## Lancaster Rec Brings Holiday Cheer to Families and Seniors Thanks to Generous Sponsors

At Lancaster Rec, we partnered with community businesses to make the holidays a bit brighter for families in our community in December 2020. We solicited T-Mobile for a lead \$10,000 donation to purchase holiday gifts for families and senior citizens in Lancaster. We knew that COVID-19 meant tough financial times for our families and senior citizens and many of our community members needed some good cheer. Many of our participants said they wouldn't be able to afford gifts for their children this year - so we jumped into action and reached out to businesses and retailers including Five Below, Dick's Sporting Goods and Wal-Mart and got discounts and donations to purchase more than 800 gifts for children and seniors.

Parents had the opportunity to register online for a time spot and were given a choice to pick up holiday gifts for under the tree or bring their children along to choose something special. Safety was our top priority while we retooled our gymnasium as a socially distance holiday shop - as our other indoor programs are currently postponed. Many parents said they were thankful that Lancaster Rec provided these gifts - with recreational games, sports equipment, creative toys and STEM learning activities to keep kids happy and busy all winter long!



# COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

## for the year ending December 31, 2020

### Revenue

State & Federal Funds - \$1,786,124  
 Program Fees - \$581,399  
 Local Public Funds - \$475,356  
     City of Lancaster (\$305,656)  
     Lancaster Township (\$73,650)  
     School District of Lancaster (\$96,050)  
 Consignment Ticket Sales - \$1,823  
 Sponsorships and Fundraising - \$113,703  
 Admission & Concession Fees - \$14,079  
 County Office of Aging - \$66,138  
 Rental Fees - \$1,548  
**TOTAL - \$3,040,170**

### Expenses

School Age Care - \$1,070,732  
 Early Childhood Education - \$869,824  
 Sports Services - \$333,068  
 Administration & Marketing - \$373,980  
 Family Programs - \$10,993  
 Senior Recreation - \$179,172  
 Facility Maintenance - \$122,776  
 Consignment Ticket Sales - \$0  
**TOTAL - \$2,960,545**

## 2020 PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

Future Red Tornado Programs	Participants
Baseball Camp	13
Beat the Streets Wrestling	29
Middle School Volleyball/PAL	190
Running Club	10
Soccer Clinics	38
Softball Clinic	27
Swim Clinic	11
Tennis Clinics	16
Volleyball Clinic	21

Youth Sports Programs	Participants
Basketball	41
Dance Classes	214
Gymnastics	30
Iddy Biddy Sports	56
Junior Tornado Cheerleading	23
Junior Tornado Tackle Football	35
Lancaster Baseball	81
Lancaster Soccer	59
NFL Flag Football Clinic	14

Child Care Programs	Participants
Before & After School Care	163
Early Childhood Education Programs	52

Recreation Programs	Participants
Adult Coed Softball	22 teams
Adult Fitness Classes	25
Back to School Giveaway	750
Boxing in the Park	10
Conestoga Pines Pool Daily Average	97
Family Pumpkin Decorating Contest	3 families
Holiday Gift Giveaway Event	800
Lifeguard Certification Class	7
Pooches in the Pool	63
Yoga in the Park	20

Senior Programs	Participants
Art Classes	10
Educational Programs	62
Fitness and Recreation Programs	154
Lancaster House North Happy Hearts	30
Lancaster Rec Senior Center	239
Lancaster Senior Orchestra	52
Luncheons and Pinochle	30
Rodney Park Happy Hearts	83
Special Events	106
Virtual Programming	32

# SUPPORTERS

We are grateful for the many individuals, businesses and community organizations that provide support for our organization throughout the year. Your commitment to our mission helps strengthen our community through recreation.

A&H Equipment	Go 'N Bananas	Lancaster Office of Promotion	Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, Inc.
AIM to Empower Yoga	Greg Keasey	Lancaster Police Athletic League	Pleasant View
AllWell from PA Health and Wellness	H&H Group	Lancaster Public Art Advisory Board	PNC Bank
Amanda Pearson	Harrisburg Area Community College	Lancaster School of Cosmetology	Power Packs Project
Amateur Softball Association	High Companies	Lancaster Science Factory	Prudential Advisors
American Red Cross	Highmark Blue Cross	Lancaster United Labor Council	Rachel Eck
Amerigreen Energy, Inc.	Hoop for Hope	Lancaster Young Professionals	Ramon Escudero
AmeriHealth Caritas	Hospice for All Seasons	LANCO Federal Credit Union	RBC Capital Markets, LLC
Angelica Pena	Ian Stoeckl	Landis Communities	Red Rose Sanitation Solutions, Inc.
Art Saunders	Iolanthe Good	LCSWMA	Riverside Camping Association
Auntie Anne's	Jaime Arroyo	Life Changes Realty Group	Robert Zuckerman
Bart and Jonna Matson	James Dougherty	Lighten Up Lancaster County Coalition	Ron and Virginia Ettelman
Baseball Tomorrow Fund/Major League Baseball	Jen Porter	Lindsay Kitchen	SALSA Baseball
Beat the Streets Lancaster	Jessica McAllister	LINK to Aging and Disability Services	San Juan Bautista Church
Ben Meiorowitz	Jessica Morales	LNP Media Group, Inc.	School District of Lancaster Athletic Department
Brad Snyder	Joe and Karen Darrenkamp	Lori Kirchner	Sean Post
Brian and Sandy Brightbill	John and Cait Carpenter	Mark Sandblade	Seventh Ward Republican Club
Brian Frailey	John C. Snyder	Mary Kate Salko	Sharon Cody
Bryan Snitchfield	John Smucker	Mary Morris	Shultz Transportation
CareerLink	Jonathan Mitchell	Matt Brennan & Kali Thompson	Simeral Construction
Carissa Massey	Kareena Rios	Max's Eatery	Skyzone Lancaster
Christine Kennedy	Katie Williamson	McCaskey Alumni Association	St. Joseph Baseball and Softball
Community Action Partnership	Kegel's Produce	Melissa Ressler	State Representative Mike Sturla
Creative Works Lancaster	Krissy Hitz	Members 1st Federal Credit Union	Suarez Family McDonald's
Danielle Woods	Kristy Aurand	Michael Hamlin	Tellus360
David Wytovich	Lancaster Behavioral Health Hospital	Michele Peck Kuhn	Tennis Central
Delanie Mast	Lancaster Bikes!	Millersville University Athletics and School of Social Work	The Common Wheel
Devon Miller	Lancaster Church of the Brethren	Music For Everyone	The Pottery Works
Dicks Sporting Goods	Lancaster City Alliance	National Recreation and Park Association	Thomas Tucker
Donna Reedy	Lancaster County Career and Technology Center	New Life Assembly of God	Tiani Salcedo
E. Joyce Hall	Lancaster County Children and Youth	Optimist Club of Lancaster	Tiffany Lam
Elizabeth Esbenshade-Fluck	Lancaster County Community Foundation	Owl Hill Learning Centers	T-Mobile
Elizabethtown Sporting Goods	Lancaster County Conservancy	Pamela Fulmer	T.W. Ponessa & Associates Counseling Services, Inc.
Emily Eckert	Lancaster County Food Hub	Patient First	UPMC Health Plan
Eric Westcott	Lancaster County Motors	Paula Smith	UPMC Life Changing Medicine
ESPN Radio 92.5/92.7 FM	Lancaster Creative Reuse	Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health	UPMC Pinnacle
FASTSIGNS	Lancaster Democrat Committee	Penn State Nutrition Program	Vikram and Heather Dighe
FIG Magazine	Lancaster Early Education Center	Penn Waste	Walmart
Five Below (Fruitville Pike)	Lancaster Education Association	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Warfel Construction
Franklin and Marshall College	Lancaster Elks Lodge 134	Pennsylvania Migrant Education Program	WeeUsables
Fraternal Order of Eagles 84	Lancaster Family YMCA	Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning	Wegmans Lancaster
FUN 101.3 FM	Lancaster Friends Meeting		William Fife
Fusion Gymnastics	Lancaster Health Center		YWCA of Lancaster
Gary Leauby	Lancaster House North		551 West - Taff Enterprises
Giant Food Stores			

## Thank you to these entities for their major funding support:

City of Lancaster • Lancaster Township • School District of Lancaster  
 Lancaster County Office of Aging • PA Pre-K Counts  
 Early Learning Resource Center • Keystone STARS



**CITY OF LANCASTER**  
*A City Authentic*



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